

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

**DECEMBER LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
CATTLE INVENTORY
CATFISH GROWERS SURVEYS
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS**

LOUISIANA LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during December totaled 1.6 million pounds, unchanged from November, but 16 percent below the previous year.

There were 2,000 head of **cattle** slaughtered during December, up 100 head from November, but unchanged from the previous year. Average live weight was 830 pounds, down 6 pounds from the previous month, and 2 pounds below December 1998. Total live weight at 1.68 million pounds, was up 6 percent from November, but virtually unchanged from a year ago.

Calves slaughtered during December totaled 900 head, down 300 head from November, and 600 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 476 pounds, down 4 pounds from November, and 14 pounds below a year ago. Total live weight at 420 thousand pounds was down 27 percent from November, and 43 percent below a year ago.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during December totaled 4,300 head, up 800 head from November, but 300 head below December 1998. Average live weight was 179 pounds, down 13 pounds from November and 23 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 771 thousand pounds, 15 percent above the previous month, but 17 percent below a year ago.

The total number of **sheep** slaughtered during December was 200 head, unchanged from November, but 100 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 76 pounds, down 2 pounds from the previous month, and 50 pounds below the previous year. #

UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.86 billion pounds in December, down 2 percent from the 3.94 billion pounds produced in December 1998.

December 1998, contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. December 1999 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

Comparing December 1999 with December 1998

Beef production at 2.11 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year, and slightly above the previous record high for December set in 1976. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.88 million head, down 1 percent from 1998. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,225 pounds.

Veal production totaled 21.0 million pounds, 6 percent below the previous record low for December set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 113 thousand head, down 13 percent from December 1998. The average live weight was 25 pounds above last year, at 303 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 5 percent from previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.89 million head, 6 percent below 1998. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 261 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 24.0 million pounds, was up 1 percent from December 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 356 thousand head, slightly above last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, up 3 pounds from December a year ago.

January-December red meat production was 46.1 billion pounds, 2 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 3 percent higher than last year, veal was down 10 percent, pork was up 2 percent and lamb & mutton was down 2 percent. #

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION

ITEM	LOUISIANA					UNITED STATES			
	November	December		January - December		December		January - December	
	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
Number, thousand head									
Cattle	1.9	2.0	2.0	25.5	23.6	2,894.5	2,876.7	35,463.8	36,160.2
Calves	1.2	1.5	0.9	20.5	14.4	129.9	112.6	1,457.8	1,284.3
Hogs	3.5	4.6	4.3	37.6	36.5	9,425.9	8,887.2	101,029.3	101,554.9
Sheep & Lambs	0.2	0.3	0.2	2.9	2.7	355.3	355.8	3,803.7	3,698.2
Total live weight, thousand pounds									
Cattle	1,584	1,691	1,683	20,872	18,638	3,513,442	3,523,204	42,671,893	43,736,395
Calves	579	735	420	9,764	6,752	36,167	34,074	416,039	374,242
Hogs	670	929	771	8,016	7,550	2,451,831	2,319,592	25,897,793	26,257,091
Sheep & Lambs	12	33	13	288	258	46,983	47,873	502,038	490,317
Average live weight, pounds									
Cattle	836	832	830	819	790	1,214	1,225	1,203	1,210
Calves	480	490	476	476	469	278	303	285	291
Hogs	192	202	179	213	207	260	261	256	259
Sheep & Lambs	78	126	76	99	96	132	135	132	133
Million pounds									
Red meat, million lbs.	1.6	1.9	1.6	21.6	18.8	3,944	3,863	45,133	46,136

CATTLE INVENTORY - JANUARY 1

CLASS	LOUISIANA		UNITED STATES	
	1999	2000	1999	2000
	-----Thousand Head-----		-----Thousand Head-----	
All Cattle and Calves	900	910	99,115	98,048
Beef Cows	486	504	33,745	33,546
Milk Cows	64	61	9,133	9,188
Beef Cow Replacement, Heifers	85	81	5,535	5,530
Milk Cow Replacement, Heifers	15	12	4,069	3,954
Other Heifers	18	17	10,170	10,045
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	25	22	16,891	16,652
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	32	33	2,281	2,294
Calves, Under 500 Pounds	175	180	17,290	16,840
Calves Born - Previous Year	430	440	38,812	38,710
Cattle on Feed	1/	---	13,219	13,983

1/Less than a thousand head, combined with other States.

LOUISIANA CATTLE INVENTORY

All cattle and calves on Louisiana farms as of January 1, 2000 were estimated at 910,000 head, up 1 percent from a year ago, said Dave Frank, State Statistician for the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service in Baton Rouge. **All cows that have calved** were estimated at 565,000, up 3 percent from a year ago. Louisiana's 1999 **calf crop** was estimated at 440,000 head, up 2 percent from 1998.

C **Beef cows** are estimated at 504,000 head, up 4 percent from January 1, 1999.

C **Milk cows** at 61,000 head, were down 5 percent from a year ago.

Other cattle inventory estimates and their change from a year ago were as follows:

C **Beef cow replacement heifers** - 81,000 head, down 5 percent.

C **Milk cow replacement heifers** - 12,000 head, down 20 percent.

C **Other heifers** - 17,000 head, down 6 percent.

C **Steers 500 pounds and over** - 22,000 head, down 12 percent.

C **Bulls 500 pounds and over** - 33,000 head, up 3 percent.

C **Calves under 500 pounds** - 180,000 head, up 3 percent.

The **number of farm operations with cattle** during 1999 were estimated at 15,500, unchanged from 1998. Included in this total were 700 milk cow operations and 13,100 beef cow operations. #

U.S. CATTLE INVENTORY

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2000, totaled 98.0 million head, 1 percent below the 99.1 million on January 1, 1999, and 2 percent below the 99.7 million two years ago. **All cows and heifers** that have calved, at 42.7 million, were slightly below the 42.9 million on January 1, 1999, and 1 percent below the 43.1 million two years ago.

C **Beef cows**, at 33.5 million, were down 1 percent from both January 1, 1999 and two years ago.

C **Milk cows**, at 9.19 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 1999, but slightly below two years ago.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2000, and the changes from January 1 last year, and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

C **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, 19.5 million, down 1 percent and down 1 percent.

C **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.53 million, down slightly and down 4 percent.

C **Milk replacement heifers**, 3.95 million, down 3 percent and down 1 percent.

C **Other heifers**, 10.0 million, down 1 percent and slightly below two years ago.

C **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.7 million, down 1 percent and down 3 percent.

C **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.29 million, up 1 percent and up 1 percent.

C **Calves** under 500 pounds, 16.8 million, down 3 percent and down 3 percent.

C **All cattle and calves** on feed for slaughter, 14.0 million, up 6 percent and up 3 percent.

The 1999 **calf crop** was estimated at 38.7 million head, down slightly from 1998, and down 1 percent from 1997. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.5 million, the same as 1998, but down slightly from 1997. #

FIRST AQUACULTURE CENSUS CATCHES NEARLY \$1 BILLION IN SALES OVER \$53 MILLION FROM LOUISIANA

The Nation's first census of aquaculture revealed interesting facts-and confirmed some expectations-about one of agriculture's fastest growing sectors. The 1998 Census of Aquaculture, conducted by the U.S.Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), provides a wide variety of data relating to methods of production, sources of water, sales and sale outlets, cooperative agreements and contracts, sizes of operation based on sales, and Aquaculture distributed for restoration or conservation purposes.

This special census provided the first detailed picture of the aquaculture industry and revealed that:

- c Mississippi topped the sales charts, capturing nearly 30 percent of the \$978 million dollars of domestic aquaculture produced in 1998. **Louisiana** captured over 5 percent with \$53.2 million.
- c Arkansas, Florida, Maine, Alabama, Washington and **Louisiana** came in second through seventh, respectively, in sales.
- c Food fish (e.g., catfish, trout, salmon, tilapia, hybrid striped bass, etc.) accounted for about two-thirds of the aquaculture sales and just under half of the farms producing aquaculture. Louisiana was fifth in number of food and food/sport fish farms. Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and North Carolina were first through fourth.
- c The value of aquacultural products sold continues to grow, jumping over twenty percent in the last year: sales totaled \$807 million in 1997, then rose to \$978 million in 1998.
- c Food fish growers showed average sales of \$387 thousand dollars per farm in 1998. Louisiana farmers had average sales of \$284 thousand dollars per farm in 1998.

The census of aquaculture contains information about food fish, baitfish, mollusk, crustaceans, ornamental fish, sport/game fish, algae and sea vegetables, and other fish and aquacultural products.

Table of Highlights

State	Total Aquaculture			Food and food/sport fish ^{1/}		Baitfish		Crustaceans		Other animal aquaculture ^{2/}	
	Farms	Sales (\$1,000)	Percent of U.S.	Farms	Sales (\$1,000)	Farms	Sales (\$1,000)	Farms	Sales (\$1,000)	Farms	Sales (\$1,000)
Top Ranking States	Mississippi			Mississippi		Arkansas		Louisiana		Louisiana	
Alabama	259	59,694	6.1%	254	58,565	2	(D)	5	20	1	(D)
Arkansas	222	84,120	8.6%	164	59,202	62	22,973	1	(D)	2	(D)
Louisiana	683	53,220	5.4%	106	30,135	2	(D)	498	9,129	83	13,251
Mississippi	419	290,382	29.7%	412	288,996	5	1,017	3	(D)	3	313
United States	4,028	978,012	---	2,168	686,329	275	37,482	837	36,318	216	52,119

1/e.g. catfish, hybrid striped bass, etc.; 2/e.g. turtles, alligators, etc.; (D) = not published to protect confidentiality.

To discover the wealth of aquaculture and other agricultural statistics available from NASS, including hundreds of commodity production and price reports, or to review a full catalog of NASS products and services, visit the NASS Home Page at www.usda.gov/nass/. The 1998 Census of Aquaculture, 1997 Census of Agriculture reports, State and County Profiles, Highlights, and a slide show presenting Quick Facts are accessible by clicking "Census of Agriculture". For other information, e-mail nass@nass.usda.gov or call 1-800-727-9540. To order a printed copy of any NASS report, call the NASS Order Desk at 1-800-999-6779.

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DOWN 2 PERCENT

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in January was 90 based on 1990-92= 100, down 2.2 percent from the December index. Lower prices for broilers, milk, turkeys, and tomatoes more than offset price increases for corn, lettuce, soybeans, and cotton. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Lower seasonal marketings of cotton, tobacco, grapes, and cottonseed more than offset the relatively higher marketings of corn, soybeans, cattle, and rice. These seasonal marketing changes account for one point of the January index decrease.

Compared with January 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 7.2 percent lower. Price decreases from January 1999 for milk, soybeans, cotton, and corn more than offset price increases for cattle, hogs, lettuce, and apples.

PRICES PAID INDEX UNCHANGED

The January Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 118 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was unchanged from December but, 2.6 percent above January 1999. Lower prices in January for feed concentrates, potash and phosphate materials, and insecticides were offset by higher prices for feed grains, complete feeds, feeder pigs, and feed supplements.

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AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

ITEM	LOUISIANA			UNITED STATES		
	ENTIRE MONTH			ENTIRE MONTH		
	January 1999	December 1999	January 1/ 2000	January 1999	December 1999	January 1/ 2000
	-----dollars-----			-----dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushels	5.51	4.70	4.92	5.32	4.44	4.59
Rice, per cwt	9.30	5.84	5.60	9.09	6.19	6.27
Upland Cotton, per pounds	.556	.398	2/ .398	.581	.430	2/ .444
Hay, all, baled, per ton	N/A	N/A	N/A	78.50	71.10	71.80
Beef Cattle, per cwt	43.00	47.70	49.70	59.00	66.60	66.60
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	66.40	79.00	84.00	62.20	70.80	70.70
Cows, per cwt	33.00	33.00	35.00	33.40	35.10	35.20
Calves, per cwt	78.10	92.40	98.00	83.20	98.60	102.00
Broilers, live, per pound	N/A	N/A	N/A	.379	.368	.350
Eggs All, per dozen	N/A	N/A	N/A	.719	.613	.580
Milk per cwt 3/	19.20	14.40	4/	17.40	12.20	11.90

1/Mid-month; 2/Based on sales during the first half of the month; 3/Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies. 4/ Monthly estimate discontinued January 2000. N/A = Not Available

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